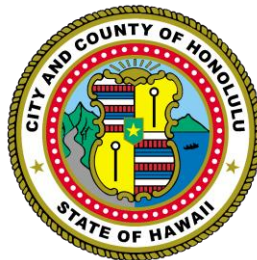




**Message
from Director**

MO'OLELO PĀKA (PARK STORY)

Quarterly newsletter from the City and County of
Honolulu Department of Parks and Recreation
April through June 2020



I hope everyone is continuing to remain healthy amidst the challenging

circumstances presented by this global pandemic. Without a doubt, these past months have presented some of the most difficult situations we have ever faced as a department, as an island community, and as human beings. They've been marked by instances where we have had to sacrifice some of our many privileges and blessings to ensure the good health and safety of ourselves, our neighbors, and our communities. I believe we are lucky to live on an island where most of us understand that maintaining good health is the paramount goal. We have observed this through the patience and cooperation exhibited by our park users as we appropriately restricted access to our park facilities and programs. As a result of your support, we have weathered the first of this storm and are now beginning to establish our new normal. This includes reopening park facilities in a steady, calculated manner and keeping a watchful eye on how the changes impact the broader health concern. I hope you find the information included in this newsletter enlightening as we reflect on these past months and look forward to overcoming the challenges that still lie ahead. Remember, we are all in this together and we will triumph in this battle against the Coronavirus.

Mahalo to our outstanding employees!



Natalie Kealoha



Carol Russell



Foster Botanical
Garden Succulent
Volunteers



Waipi'o Peninsula
Soccer Complex
Staff

Beach Maintenance

While beaches were closed for over a month, our [Maintenance Support Service staff used the opportunity to push sand](#) and fortify our beaches. Sandy Beach Park pictured below.



Making Cloth Masks

Even before Mayor's Order requiring the wearing of cloth masks in public, our [Recreation Staff began making masks for our DPR 'ohana with clockwork efficiency](#). Pictured below is staff from Makiki District Park making masks.



Nā Lei Koa

With no formal Lei Day Celebration, DPR Culture and Recreation staff developed the [Nā Lei Koa \(Warrior Lei\) theme](#) as a way to show appreciation for our first responders on the frontlines.



WORKING HARD DURING THE PANDEMIC

Online Classes

Our Spring enrichment classes were cancelled, but our dedicated Recreation Staff continue to provide learning opportunities through our social media and the [Nā Pāka ma ka Hale \(Parks at Home\) online class series!](#) Link below to the classes.



Fertilizing Fields

Limited use of park fields created a great opportunity for our [Maintenance Support Services to help rejuvenate our grass areas](#) so that they are in top shape when fully reopened.



Propagating Endangered Species

Botanical Garden staff continue their work [protecting and repopulating critically endangered species](#), specifically gathering seeds of the largest *Gigasiphon* tree in captivity and growing more of the tree.



bit.ly/DPRyoutube



facebook.com/honolulu.parks



@honolulu_parks



@honolulu_parks

Congratulations to winners of the Mayor's Memorial Day Poster Contest!

Even with the cancellation of the 71st Mayor's Memorial Day Ceremony, DPR received hundreds of beautiful and patriotic depictions into this year's poster contest! Special recognition to Kaua'i who swept the high school division. We hope everyone had an enjoyable Memorial Day and took time to remember those who sacrificed for our benefit. Mahalo to all of those brave men and women.

Julie Kang, Punahou

Anuheia Kawai, Kapolei Middle

Kaylin Sautter, Kapa'a High



DPR COVID-19 Response Timeline:

Beginning with Mayor Caldwell's Emergency Proclamation on March 4, the City and DPR have issued and relaxed restrictions specifically designed to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 within our island community.

March 18 – Cancellation of DPR events, including the 93rd Annual Lei Day Celebration, and the closure of all City park facilities, botanical gardens, and campgrounds. Ocean activities remained open, and public could still traverse parks to access the ocean.

March 22 – [Stay at Home / Work from Home Order](#) issued, outlining essential businesses and workers allowed to continue in operation. DPR workers are considered essential workers.

March 27 – Community Gardens, stand-alone comfort stations, and outdoor showers reopened for public use.

April 2 – [71st Mayor's Memorial Day Ceremony](#) at Punchbowl cancelled.

April 14 – Order requiring wearing of non-medical face masks in public, exercise exempted.

April 16 – [Summer class registration](#) (including Summer Fun) and [camping reservations](#) postponed until further notice.

April 25 – City parks partially reopen for walking, jogging, running, & bicycle riding. DPR parking lots reopen.

May 1 – The [Honolulu Botanical Gardens](#) reopen for passive use.

May 15 – Outdoor courts and fields reopen for one-on-one sports and exercise where physical distancing can be maintained at all times. Exercise groups of no more than 10 people allowed.

May 16 – [O'ahu beaches reopen](#) with physical distancing limitations.

May 27 – Koko Head Tramway reopened. Skateparks & off-leash dog parks reopened 5/29. Koko Head Shooting Complex, archery ranges, People's Open Markets, and pools (for lap swim only with [particular procedures](#)) reopening 6/5.

June 3 – Pilot project for [Parks and Recreation Online System \(PROS\) begins](#) for reservations at the Koko Head Shooting Complex.

June 5 – [Timeline outlined to recommence issuing park permits](#) for: team sports (6/18), camping (6/26), commercial activities (6/15) and larger events of no more than 100 people (6/26 for picnics, 6/19 for volunteer / community service events)

June 9 – [Modified Summer Fun program announced for month of July](#) with limited capacity. Online (PROS) registration begins 6/18.

June 12 – [Bellows Campgrounds to remain closed](#) until Sept. 4 for turtle nesting.

Kākou for Parks Program Updates:

We have continued this one-of-a-kind program to revitalize our most heavily used park facilities amidst the pandemic. Since 2015, this key Mayor's initiative has resulted in improvements to **173 different parks** across our island, including:



Date Street Mini Park

119

New & Refurbished Play Apparatus



Kaka'ako Waterfront Park

118

Renovated Comfort Stations



Hōkūahiahi Neighborhood Park

393

Resurfaced Play Courts